

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7-11, 22, 23, and 25-29 were pending in the application at the time of the last Office Action.

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 7-11, 22, 23, and 25-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2003/0093694 ("Medvinsky") and U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2005/0076220 ("Zhang"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Medvinsky is directed to a key management protocol in which a key distribution center (KDC) provides a "server ticket" to a client. (See paragraph 16.) The ticket "is an authentication token and it may include the client, a server name, a session key, etc." Once a client has the server ticket, it can access content, e.g., stored at a caching server. (See, e.g., paragraphs 16-18.)

Zhang is directed to techniques for delivering advertisement emails and to stop "spam." Zhang's technique involves authenticating senders (see, e.g., paragraph 17), using fingerprint keys (see, e.g., paragraphs 18 and 19), and awarding and/or deducting "anti-spam points." (See, e.g., paragraphs 20 and 22.)

Claim 1 is neither taught nor suggested

Claim 1 recites "acquiring, by the processor, a block of tickets at a time from a ticketing entity, the block of tickets including at least one ticket having a value specified by a sender of a message, each ticket of the block including a code from a sequence of codes generated from a start code using a one-way function." "Tickets" is pluralized in "a block of tickets" and so there are two or more tickets. The Office Action does not indicate where in the applied references at least these features are taught or suggested. Thus, the Office has not made a prima facie rejection of claim 1. Moreover, because Medvinsky provides authentication tokens to access content, providing a block of tokens would defeat the intended purpose because then the user would have multiple ways to use the content and could potentially distribute the tokens. Zhang is not shown by the Office as overcoming this deficiency in Medvinsky.

Moreover, claim 1 recites "the block of tickets including at least one ticket having a value specified by a sender of a message." The Office Action does not explain how Medvinsky or Zhang have anything to do with senders specifying values for anything.

Moreover, claim 1 recites "upon receiving the message, the recipient can conditionally redeem the value of the ticket from the ticketing entity, and wherein a mail server is provided with an end code of the sequence of codes and determines whether a ticket of the message includes a code from which the end code can be derived." The Office Action concedes that Medvinsky does not disclose anything remotely similar to these features, but points to Zhang as overcoming this deficiency. However, the Office Action does not indicate where in Zhang the features "conditionally redeem the value of the ticket from the ticketing entity" or "including a code from which the end code can be derived" are taught or suggested. Thus, the Office has not made a *prima facie* rejection of claim 1.

According to the Office Action, Medvinsky and Zhang are to be combined because the combination "would provide an efficient means for authenticating senders and once verified, delivering the email to the recipient." However, this has absolutely nothing to do with conditional redemption of tickets.

Claim 22 is neither taught nor suggested

Claim 22 recites "receiving an electronic message having a ticket issued by a ticketing entity, the ticket having a value that is specified by a sender." The Office Action does not explain how Medvinsky or Zhang have anything to do with senders specifying values for anything.

Claim 25 is neither taught nor suggested

Claim 25 recites "receiving an electronic message having a ticket issued by a ticketing entity, the ticket having a value that is specified by a sender." The Office Action does not explain how Medvinsky or Zhang have anything to do with senders specifying values for anything.

Conclusion

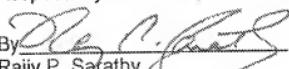
The Office has not made a prima facie rejection of the independent claims. The dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims. Applicants thus respectfully request reconsideration of all pending claims. Applicants do not concede any rejection not specifically responded to above and reserve their rights to do so in the future.

Based on these amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully request early allowance of this application. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-6478.

Please charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 50-0665, under Order No. 418268004US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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